

27 November 2001

Hon. J. Frederick Motz
U.S. District Court
Baltimore MD

Your Honor:

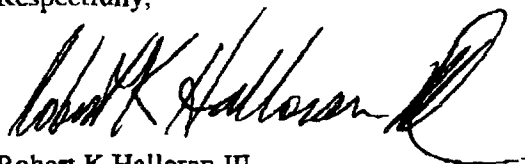
As a computer professional of twenty-five years standing, I wish to comment on the proposed settlement in the Microsoft case.

Allowing Microsoft to extend their grasp of the marketplace by unloading programs on the educational marketplace to avoid penalties is an unreasonable solution. The computers they propose to donate would appear to be far behind current standards (see the article in the San Jose Mercury Press' online edition at <http://www.siliconvalley.com/docs/hottopics/msantitrust/mssch112101.htm>); were I to donate such a computer personally to my school district, they would reject it as too old to be of use. This would also mean that the programs offered for use on such systems would of necessity be outdated. This would allow Microsoft to unload obsolete code from their stock, with a writeoff for charitable contribution, using systems likely to be resurrected from the landfills of Silicon Valley. In return for this, they escape additional penalties, and further entrench their monopoly position by making their programs the first seen by a whole new generation of potential consumers.

I urge you to reconsider this settlement as against the best interest of the consumers affected, and to continue the case to a more equitable arrangement.

I remain,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert K. Halloran III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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